



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 28 December 2007

Current Nationwide



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- The New York Daily News reported that a special task force deemed all of the state's 49 deck truss bridges safe to traverse despite finding cracked beams, deteriorating concrete and missing bolts on 20 of the inspected spans. The study by the state Bridge Task Force found flaws in four key spans in New York City, including decaying steel beams and crumbling decks on the Brooklyn Bridge. Officials said none of the flaws pose an immediate threat and all are fixable. (See items [8](#))
- According to City Pages, despite an overall decrease in the number of tuberculosis infections nationwide in recent years, Minnesota's rate increased 9 percent between 2005 and 2006. Many cases involve drug-resistant TB. Officials say 82 to 85 percent of TB in Minnesota is diagnosed in foreign-born people, and local doctors are reluctant to sound the alarm too loudly for fear of stirring up anti-immigrant backlash. (See item [16](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *December 27, Associated Press* – (California) **Outages remain in SoCal due to winds.** Thousands of Southern California residents were without power Thursday as strong winds knocked down power lines and blew blinding dust across desert roadways. More than 19,000 customers from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power were

without electricity following winds that blew in the 50-60 mph range. The outages stretched from the San Fernando Valley to southern Los Angeles. Forecasters said the winds should subside by late Thursday after making for a blustery holiday in Southern California. High winds on Christmas Day blew down power lines and transformers, and utility crews were placed on standby in anticipation for more strong gusts. Early Thursday, The National Weather Service issued high wind warnings for southwest California, where winds of 35-45 mph were predicted through the morning. Wind gusts of up to 80 mph were possible.

Source:

http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/nation/20071227_ap_outagesremaininsocalduetowinds.html

2. *December 27, Reuters* – (International) **Oil rises \$1 on Bhutto killing, U.S. inventory fall.** Oil rose more than a dollar past \$97 a barrel on Thursday, on falling U.S. crude stocks and mounting geopolitical tensions after the killing of the Pakistani opposition leader. U.S. oil gained \$1.30 to \$97.27 a barrel by. London Brent crude rose \$1.28 to \$95.22 a barrel. U.S. government data showed crude oil inventories off 3.3 million barrels in the week of December 21 to the lowest level since January 2005. Stocks of distillates including heating oil fell by 2.8 million barrels, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/27/AR2007122700133.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *December 26, KTVI FOX 2* – (Missouri) **Train derailment in Pevely, MO; one car leaking sulfuric acid.** Hazmat and fire crews responded to the scene of a train derailment in Pevely, Missouri. Four cars of a freight train derailed Wednesday night at a Dow Chemical Company plant on Dow Industrial Road. One of the derailed cars was leaking sulfuric acid. The derailment is reportedly close to a creek which runs into the Mississippi River. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

Source:

<http://www.myfoxstl.com/myfox/pages/News/Detail?contentId=5324004&version=1&ocale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=3.2.1>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *December 26, Associated Press* – (Arizona) **Fire reported at nuclear tower near Phoenix.** The Phoenix Fire Department along with several units responded to the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station west of Phoenix. Authorities say a maintenance crew noticed smoke coming from a piece of fiberglass in a cooling tower at Unit 3. Arizona Public Service, which operates the station, says there is no fire at the station, and nobody

was hurt. A spokesman said workers noticed smoke earlier Wednesday. He said it came off a fiberglass barrier used to keep water off the maintenance crew, but that the barrier never caught fire. The spokesman said that the Unit 3 cooling tower is outside the station's fence and far away from any nuclear material.

Source: <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,318477,00.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *December 26, Boston Globe* – (National) **Raytheon: Army aware of missile's flaw.** Army officials were aware that the Raytheon-built Patriot air-defense system had difficulty distinguishing between friendly and enemy aircraft but deployed the missiles in the Iraq war after deciding the system was needed to protect troops, a Raytheon Co. executive stated in a recent legal filing. The statement was filed in a lawsuit brought by the family of a Navy pilot who was killed by a Patriot missile while flying over Iraq in 2003. The declaration marks a rare acknowledgment of problems with a mainstay of the Army's air-defense arsenal and underscores what Raytheon says is a key issue in the case – whether a defense contractor can be sued over the way soldiers use its products in the heat of combat. Originally designed as a ground defense against aircraft, Patriot missiles and their launchers gained fame during the Gulf War of 1991 when they were pressed into service to defend against Iraqi Scud missiles. However, later reviews forced the Army to scale back its claims Patriot had a near-perfect record shooting down incoming targets in that conflict, and led to heavy spending on upgrades. When Patriot missile batteries were deployed to protect troops in the 2003 invasion of Iraq, they destroyed nine incoming missiles but also were involved in three friendly-fire incidents that killed three allied airmen, including both fliers of a British Tornado jet.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/business/technology/articles/2007/12/26/raytheon_army_aware_of_missiles_flaw/

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *December 27, Washington Post* – (National) **Mortgage probes face big hurdles.** As credit woes sparked by the troubled housing market threaten the broader economy, investigators are trying to determine whether Wall Street investment banks bundled risky loans with good ones without properly disclosing such risk to investors. The tangled system of bank regulation and the challenge of proving that executives intended to break the law when they unloaded bad assets could pose significant hurdles for investigators, current and former government officials say. Many of the assets that tumbled were explicitly marketed as involving borrowers with troubled credit histories, alerting investors that they were high-risk bets. The legal jeopardy of the market's biggest actors remains unclear, even as scrutiny of their activities has intensified. The Securities and Exchange Commission is probing whether Merrill Lynch and a handful of other large investment banks and brokerages properly disclosed losses and financial

problems in the weeks before Merrill's chief executive retired under pressure in October. Meanwhile, the U.S. attorney in Brooklyn is looking into last summer's collapse of two Bear Stearns investment funds, as well as whether former fund managers may have taken advantage of early warnings to transfer millions of dollars of their own money out of the deteriorating accounts and into more stable investments.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/26/AR2007122601713.html>

7. *December 27, Nevada Appeal* – (Nevada) **State warns of business scam.** Nevada's Secretary of State is warning Nevada businesses they may be targeted by a new mail fraud. The scam is in the form of a "final notice" letter from the National Business Registration claiming that, under the Patriot Act, businesses are required to register with the National Corporation Registry. The letter demands a \$487 fee within 14 days or the business will be "administratively dissolved/revoked and an additional fee will be due if the entity is removed from our database due to non-payment." The Secretary said the scam has been tried in several states, prompting the National Association of Secretaries of State and the International Association of Commercial Administrators to issue warnings. He advised any company receiving such a notice to keep it along with the envelope and return envelope and notify the U.S. Postal Inspector's office.

Source: <http://www.nevadaappeal.com/article/20071227/NEWS/852427652>

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Transportation Sector

8. *December 27, New York Daily News* – (New York) **N.Y.'s cracked bridges called safe.** Despite finding cracked beams, deteriorating concrete and missing bolts on 20 of the state's 49 deck truss bridges, a special task force has deemed them all "safe" to traverse. Results of the study by the state Bridge Task Force found flaws in four key spans in the city, including decaying steel beams and crumbling decks on the Brooklyn Bridge. Task force officials said yesterday all of the defects it found pose no impending peril and are fixable. The governor of New York ordered the inspections of the state's deck truss bridges following the August collapse of the Interstate 35 bridge in Minneapolis that killed 13 people. The state has more than 17,000 smaller bridges that were not included in the task force's report. Eighteen bridges, including Brooklyn, Manhattan and the Kosciuszko bridges received "yellow flags" for problems that could become critical flaws if not addressed. The Brooklyn Bridge's two yellow flags were for decaying steel beams. Inspectors also found deteriorating concrete under the bridge's deck and a rip in the net that catches debris.

Source: http://www.nydailynews.com/news/2007/12/27/2007-12-27_nys_cracked_bridges_called_safe-1.html

9. *December 27, Grand Rapids Press* – (Michigan) **Wires got crossed at airport.** Gerald R. Ford International Airport was without power Monday for 14 hours after snow filled an electrical meter box. An airport board member said Wednesday that Consumers Energy responded with a lack of urgency that allowed passengers to stay in the dark and cold for too long. A Consumers crew left the airport while it was still without power,

incorrectly believing the problem was with airport equipment, the board member said. The utility crews did not fix the problem until seven hours after an electrical contractor hired by the airport disputed Consumers' findings, airport officials said. The outage knocked out radar screens at the top of the control tower, forcing air traffic controllers to communicate by phone with radar operators four floors down, where the screens were working. A Consumers spokesman denied the utility treated the airport outage casually. Airport officials bear blame, the spokesman said, for failing to follow procedures to report high-priority outages.

Source:

http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2007/12/wires_got_crossed_at_airport.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

10. *December 26, Associated Press* – (South Dakota) **Suspicious package at federal building under investigation.** At least part of the Federal Building in Aberdeen, South Dakota, was evacuated December 26 after employees spotted a suspicious package while opening mail. The unusual looking envelope appeared to have brown powder on the seal. Authorities immediately evacuated the third floor of the building. Aberdeen firefighters protected by masks and gloves took the letter and sealed it in a bag and containers. A postal service inspector from Sioux Falls was sent to Aberdeen.

Source: http://www.kotatv.com/Global/story.asp?S=7545359&nav=menu411_2

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Agriculture and Food Sector

11. *December 26, USA TODAY*– (National) **Recalls often cite faulty ingredient lists.** Food labels that do not list ingredients that are allergens — such as eggs, milk and nuts — are the leading reason for the most serious recalls of non-meat products, government data show. The failure to list allergens on labels or to keep allergens out of foods they are not supposed to be in accounted for half the Food and Drug Administration's most serious food recalls in fiscal 2007. It was the top reason for the most serious recalls of foods under the FDA's authority and has ranked on top for at least the past three fiscal years, says the director of the FDA's office of enforcement. The FDA estimates food allergies lead to 150 deaths and 30,000 emergency room visits a year. The causes of allergen-related recalls reveal gaps in manufacturing practices that affect food safety for all. A 2006 FDA report that assessed allergen control at 1,800 domestic food plants inspected in fiscal years 2002-2004 found that 25 percent had conditions in which allergens could pass to products not supposed to contain them.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/food/2007-12-26-food-label-recalls_N.htm

12. *December 26, KHAS TV*– (Nebraska) **Ag Department warns farmers about cattle disease.** Prompted by concern over Trichomoniasis, a disease among cattle that is known to cause infertility, open cows and occasionally abortions in cows and heifers,

the State Department of Agriculture has issued an import order effective January 1st. That means there are some strict conditions and requirements for beef and dairy animals being imported into the state. The state says the new regulations are needed to safeguard the animals and protect the Nebraska Livestock industry. For a full list of restrictions and conditions, please see: http://www.agr.ne.gov/division/bai/trich_order_3.pdf. Source: <http://new.khastv.com/modules/news/article.php?storyid=12115&storytopic=4>

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Water Sector

13. *December 27, Associated Press* – (Indiana) **Elkhart sending water to polluted neighborhood.** A company intends to run city water to more than a dozen homes in a neighborhood near Elkhart, whose groundwater it has acknowledged polluting. Since June, when Geocel Corp. said it was responsible for the pollution, Meadow Farms residents have been advised not to drink or cook with their water and to bathe only in lukewarm water, because heat can release contaminants. Geocel signed an agreement with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management in November in which it agreed to clean up the contaminated area in exchange for the state's promise not to take legal action.

Source:

<http://www.indystar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071227/LOCAL/71227008>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

14. *December 27, All Headline News* – (International) **Bayer recalls diabetes test strips.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced recently that Germany's Bayer AG has called for a recall of its glucose test strips, which the company discovered gave readings 5 percent to 17 percent higher than the actual results. This may lead patients to administer greater doses of insulin, which may cause health problems or even death. Only Bayer's Contour TS Blood Glucose Meter is being recalled. The company's other brands such as Ascensia Contour and the Ascensia Breeze2 systems need not be returned. Bloomberg reported that the recalls were ordered for products that had already made their way into the U.S., France, Turkey, Austria, Korea, India and Mexico. No injuries or death have been reported. The recall would be meant for those with lot numbers beginning in WK, and immediately followed by the characters 7D, 7E, 7F, or 7G, and then proceeded with a series of numbers and letters.

Source: <http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7009552913>

15. *December 26, Reuters* – (National) **Regular flu vaccine may help against bird flu.** Ordinary seasonal flu vaccines may provide a small amount of protection against bird flu, Italian researchers at the National Institute for Infectious Diseases Lazzaro Spallanzani in Rome reported on Wednesday. Their study is among the first to support the idea that getting an annual flu shot may help people's bodies fight off the H5N1 virus, which has killed 210 people in 13 countries and infected 341. The researchers

tested the blood of 42 volunteers who had been vaccinated against seasonal influenza. In the laboratory, they added H5N1 virus to the blood and found that in some of the volunteers immune system proteins called antibodies acted against the bird flu virus. They also found a few immune cells called CD4 T-cells seemed to recognize and act against H5N1 virus “and seasonal vaccine administration enhanced the frequency of such reactive CD4 T-cells,” they wrote in the journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. Health experts around the world are trying to boost rates of annual flu vaccination for two reasons — because flu itself kills between 250,000 and 500,000 people a year, and also to help the world prepare for a pandemic. These experts agree a pandemic is overdue, and fear H5N1 could cause the next one as it is constantly popping up among birds and a few people in Asia and Africa and among birds in Europe. If more people get vaccinated against seasonal flu, companies will make more of the vaccine and can quickly turn production to match whatever strain of pandemic flu, including some version of H5N1, that may eventually occur.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/22399522/>

16. *December 26, City Pages* – (Minnesota) **TB rising**. The United States has experienced an overall decrease in the number of tuberculosis infections in recent years, with 13,767 cases reported in 2006, down 3.2 percent from 2005. That represents the lowest rate since 1953, when national reporting began. In Minnesota, however, the rate of tuberculosis infection increased 9 percent between 2005 and 2006. Minnesota’s Department of Health TB program manager expects a total of 235 to 240 cases this year, marking the highest rate of infection “in recent memory.” About 15 percent of the TB cases diagnosed in Minnesota are resistant to at least one of the four drugs commonly used to treat the disease. There was also a recent case of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis – the same kind that triggered a nationwide panic earlier this year when an infected Georgia resident flew on an international commercial flight after being diagnosed. According to officials, 82 to 85 percent of TB in Minnesota is diagnosed in foreign-born people, above the national average of about 50 percent, and local doctors are reluctant to sound the alarm about the upswing in TB too loudly for fear of stirring up anti-immigrant backlash.

Source: <http://articles.citypages.com/2007-12-26/news/tb-rising/>

Government Facilities Sector

17. *December 26, Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Capitol employees returning after evacuation**. State employees returned to work at the Georgia Capitol after suspicious packages prompted a partial evacuation Wednesday morning. A spokesman for the Capitol Police said one or more suspicious packages were found at the Capitol at about 10 a.m. State local and federal authorities responded. Part of the Capitol was evacuated while a bomb detection unit investigated. The packages were removed and employees were being allowed back into the building. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation will take over the investigation.

Source:

http://www.ajc.com/traffic/content/metro/stories/2007/12/26/package_1226.html

Emergency Services Sector

18. *December 27, Business Wire* – (Ohio) **daytaOhio executes Combat Search and Rescue project subcontract.** In a press release Thursday, daytaOhio announced completion of a \$350,000 subcontract related to Combat Search and Rescue (CSAR), focused on developing an integrated visualization platform (IVP) to improve human performance and the use of sensor information in search and rescue situations. The subcontract was part of a larger contract with the Air Force Research Laboratory (ARFL) In previous work, AFRL scientists using a five-sided virtual visualization space (floor and four sides) were learning how directional audio could be used to improve the performance and safety of CSAR teams in combat situations. For example, in a maze of city streets, rescuers could wear headphones emitting directional tones to help navigate or signal an imminent threat. Earlier this year, daytaOhio approached the AFRL Sensor and Human Effectiveness Directorates at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base with an idea to enhance the existing research effort based on his work with both directorates. The company proposed adding a second virtual environment to provide different views of a rescue mission; from a building, a helicopter or an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), and a large, multi-screen display to allow commanders to see what is going on in the virtual environments and then integrate that with sensor and other information before passing it on in the form of directional audio signals. The IVP will simulate sophisticated research and training environments with the primary goal of enhancing individual and group performance by integrating complex information from layered sensors and other sources and effectively communicating these to military personnel.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/071227/20071227005063.html?.v=1>

19. *December 27, Mining Gazette* – (Michigan) **911 upgrade awaits federal license.** Delay in the processing of a Federal Communications Commission license is the only thing standing in the way of Baraga County, Michigan's, 911 service catching up, technologically, with the rest of the state. "That's pretty much the final step in the puzzle," Baraga County's 911 director said. Baraga needs the FCC license to install repeater equipment on state police communications towers in Pelkie, Skanee and Herman. The equipment is necessary to transmit 800 MHz dispatch signals from the Michigan State Police post in Negaunee to local emergency responders. The director said the county sent the license application to the FCC in April but the federal agency has not yet processed it. Baraga County already has enhanced 911 service for 911 calls originating from wireless phones. Enhanced 911 allows dispatchers to pinpoint the map locations from which 911 calls originate. The 800 MHz equipment awaiting FCC approval will allow dispatchers in Negaunee to contact local emergency responders in Baraga County directly, the way it is done in the rest of the state. The director said the other steps necessary to achieve enhanced 911 service for land-line phones in the county, most significantly the compilation of the phone number/address databases, have already been completed.

Source: <http://www.mininggazette.com/stories/articles.asp?articleID=9970>

Information Technology

20. *December 27, Computerworld* – (National) **Storm switches tactics third time, adds rootkit.** The ongoing Storm Trojan attack that began Monday has morphed again, security researchers said today, changing the malicious file's name, shifting to new malware hosting servers, and adding a rootkit to cloak the bot code from anti-virus software. Spam messages attempting to dupe users into installing the bot-making Trojan now include links happycards2008.com or newyearcards2008.com, different URLs than in the second-wave attack that began Christmas Day. According to analysts at the SANS Institute's Internet Storm Center (ISC) and U.K.-based Prevx Ltd., the name of the file users are asked to download has also changed from Tuesday's "happy2008.exe." The file being shilled today is tagged to "happynewyear.exe." More important is the behind-the-scenes addition of a rootkit to the versions of Storm now being seeded to infected machines, said researchers. Several researchers have posted analyses of Storms cloaking attempt. "[Storm now has] better hiding skills, no visible running processes, nastiness all hidden from the API (can you say rootkit?)," said one. Fortunately, said another, the rootkit is relatively old, and thus detectable by at least some security software. Neither is the move by Storm's makers to hide its components and operations from anti-virus programs a new thing: the Trojan began using rootkits months ago. According to WHOIS look-ups, both the happycards2008.com and newyearcards2008.com domains were registered with a Russian domain registrar named RUcenter only yesterday; the listed contact for the two domains is based in Los Angeles, but the contact phone number gave only a constant busy signal. Since the newest Storm attack began on Monday with spam touting Christmas-themed strippers, the code has repacked hundreds of times, a trick malware authors use to deceive signature-based antivirus software. Prevx, said its researcher, has already detected more than 400 variants of the version now in circulation.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9054358&source=rss_news10

21. *December 26, Computerworld* – (National) **Pump-and-dump scam spam switches on video.** Pump-and-dump stock scammers have begun spiking their spam with high-quality video clips -- the latest move in a long-running scheme that in the past has relied on image files, PDF documents and even robotic audio to dupe consumers, a security company said today. Symantec Corp. said on Monday that it had snared samples of pump-and-dump spam that linked to a high-definition video stream hyping a uranium exploration firm's stock. "The online video streaming is about 30 seconds long, with very crisp and clear sound, and the video quality is very impressive," noted a Symantec analyst, on the security vendor's blog. Some of the video clips even include phony "financial analysts" who talk up the stock with a just-as-bogus "host" of a no-name stock-tip program. The spam's copy appears to tout the stock of Wave Uranium Holding, a Las Vegas-based company that says it has uranium claims in Arizona and other mining rights in Utah. Wave Uranium's stock is traded on the Over The Counter Bulletin Board exchange, which deals with low-priced, low-volume shares. Other spam caught in Symantec's honeypots took a different approach that used previously poisoned

video search engines. “This e-mail directs the user to key words (tags) from the spam sample message,” said the researcher. “The tags are then inserted into popular video search engines and usually come up with many video records uploaded with the same or similar description of the penny stock that spammers wish to promote.” Among the tags touted in the spam were “hot stock,” “madcap” and “pinksheet.” Pump-and-dump scams have plagued consumers’ in-boxes all year, with messages that have included image files, synthesized speech, PDF documents and Microsoft Excel spreadsheets to evade antispam filters. The schemes can be extremely profitable. In September, for instance, federal authorities announced that a group of stock scammers had pleaded guilty to multiple fraud counts only after they had bilked investors of over \$20 million.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9054219&intsrc=hm_list

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

22. *December 26, Chicago Tribune* – (National) **TV group sees dark time if white space opened up.** When a Dallas TV station started transmitting digital signals a decade ago, five dozen wireless heart monitors at Baylor University quit working. Baylor got different monitors, and no patients were harmed, but it is a story that the executive vice president of the National Association of Broadcasters still tells to argue against allowing electronic devices to operate on vacant TV channels. “That was an unforeseen circumstance,” he said. “It shows how predictions of the way things will work don’t always come true in the real world.” The nation’s TV broadcasters are fighting Google, Microsoft and other high-tech firms that want to use vacant TV channels to carry high-speed data for a new generation of gadgets. Called “white space,” over-the-air channels like 6 and 8 in Chicago are left vacant to prevent signals broadcast on Channels 5, 7 and 9 from interfering with one another. But new digital technology and smart radios that sense whether broadcast channels are being used should enable low-power devices to use vacant channels without hurting TV reception, Internet-oriented executives argue. Utilizing white-space channels will provide consumers with more affordable ways to access the Internet and encourage innovators to make nifty new wireless gizmos, said the director of government relations for the Information Technology Industry Council. This would be especially useful in rural areas where high-speed Internet connections are scarce and vacant TV channels plentiful, he said. Once America’s TV broadcasters switch from analog to all-digital transmissions in February 2009, white-space channels

should be open to unlicensed portable devices, he said. Broadcaster arguments that smart radios cannot use white space without causing TV interference are off the mark, said the vice president of the New America Foundation. For example, one segment of radio spectrum controlled by the Department of Defense for radar transmissions is open to sharing with unlicensed devices in much the same way proposed for TV white space, he said. This month, the UK approved a digital TV white-space sharing plan similar to the one at the FCC.

Source: www.chicagotribune.com/business/chewed_whitespacedec26,0,1588050.story?coll=chi_business_mezz

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Commercial Facilities Sector

No news to report.

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

23. *December 27, Billings Gazette*– (National) **Ammonium levels rise in parks.** Bits of ammonium -- a nitrogen compound associated with agricultural operations and fertilizers -- are present in the snow and rain that fall onto Yellowstone, Glacier, and other national parks in the intermountain West. In high enough levels, ammonium can trigger subtle changes in the natural functions of lakes, ponds, insects and flowers. Yellowstone and Glacier are among nine parks where “significant worsening trends” of ammonium in the air were found, according to a recent National Park Service report on air quality trends from 1996 to 2005. Over the past several years, monitors have been picking up more and more ammonium in the air in Yellowstone and elsewhere. “The real question is why it’s increasing. ... It’s not just in Yellowstone, it’s up and down the western Great Plains,” said the chief of research and monitoring in the Park Service’s air resources division in Denver. Ammonia is part of a mix of elements that’s swept up from vehicle exhaust, factory emissions and agricultural operations and travels in clouds before it’s deposited with rain and snow. Park Service officials say they have seen increasing amounts in national parks in Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado, South Dakota, Utah, and Arizona. A Colorado State University study of Rocky Mountain park pollution indicated that it was originating from east of the park and being deposited during rain- and snowstorms.

Source:

<http://www.casperstartribune.net/articles/2007/12/27/news/wyoming/2f04a889c0fe9958872573bd0075bf24.txt>

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Dams Sector

24. *December 26, WSBT 22 South Bend* – (Indiana) **Levee break causes flooding in**

Syracuse. Syracuse, Indiana, has taken emergency action to deal with a flooding problem. A break in a levy caused flooding in three businesses and lowered water levels in Lake Wawasee and Lake Syracuse. Crews shored up the levee this past weekend. On Thursday night the Syracuse town council will be given an update on the emergency repairs. Then in January it will possibly make a decision whether additional work is needed on the levee.

Source: <http://www.wsbt.com/news/local/12833592.html>

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DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports – The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary of open-source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues. The DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is archived for ten days on the Department of Homeland Security Website: <http://www.dhs.gov/iaipdailyreport>

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To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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